

**REMARKS**

The Office Action addresses claims 2-12. Claims 9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC §112. Claims 2 and 5-12 stand rejected under 35 USC §102. Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC §103. By the foregoing, claim 2 is cancelled and claims 5-12 are amended. New claim 13 is presented for consideration. In light of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks, withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of the claims are courteously solicited.

Claims 9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed. By the foregoing, claims 9 and 12 are amended, which amendment is believed to render this rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 5-12 stand rejection under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Riepler U.S. Patent No. 5 944 335. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 2 is cancelled.

Riepler '335 discloses a sliding device, i.e. a ski, having a pedestal (4) extending from an upper side thereof for attachment of a ski binding. The pedestals are formed monolithically with a shell carrier (2) that is embedded within the body of the ski (see Figures 4 and 8) or is wrapped around the upper surface of the ski (see Figure 7). The pedestal structure is mounted above a core (11) that provides rigidity to the central longitudinal portion of the ski. Portions of the interior of the ski that form cavities (16) are filled with a plastic foam, such as an elastomer foam. In some embodiments, the shell carrier (9) includes apertures (26) through which the foam can pass.

Riepler '335 does not disclose a sliding board having a sliding board body, with a cradle or cassette integrated into the sliding-board body including supporting bars extending vertically between an upper cup and a lower belt, longitudinal

bars extending in a longitudinal direction of the sliding board, and connecting bars extending in a transverse direction of the sliding board joining the supporting bars, as required by amended claim 9. Further, Riepler '335 does not disclose a method for the manufacture of a sliding board where a preformed sliding board upper part is connected to a lower part, wherein during the assembly of the upper and lower parts, at least one interface element for arranging and guiding of a binding part is anchored on a cradle or cassette fully encased within a cavity formed by said sliding-board upper and lower parts, the cradle or cassette including supporting bars extending vertically between said upper and lower parts, longitudinal bars extending in a longitudinal direction of the sliding board, and connecting bars extending in a transverse direction of the sliding board joining the supporting bars, as required by amended claim 6. Instead, Riepler '335 discloses a shell carrier (2), identified in the Office Action as a "cradle", which appears to be relatively monolithic and planar or sheet-like in its construction and which does not include the claimed supporting bars, longitudinal bars or connecting bars. Therefore, it appears that Riepler '335 does not disclose each and every element of independent claims 6 and 9, as amended. Claims 3-5, 7, 8 and 10-12 depend either directly or indirectly from the independent claims and should be considered patentable therewith. Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Riepler '335. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from independent claim 9. As discussed above, Riepler '335 does not disclose the elements of claim 9 as amended, and claim 9 is believed to be patentable over the reference. Claims 3 and 4 are believed patentable therewith. Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

New independent claim 13 is presented for consideration. Claim 13 is drawn to a sliding board comprising, inter alia, a sliding-board body, an interface element connected to the sliding-board body, and a cradle or cassette integrated into the sliding-board body, the cradle or cassette including supporting bars extending vertically between an upper cup and a lower belt, longitudinal bars extending in a longitudinal direction of the sliding board, and connecting bars extending in a transverse direction of the sliding board. Claim 13 further requires that the interface element includes a pair of rail-like guide elements extending in the longitudinal direction of the sliding board, that the guide elements include connecting extensions on an underside thereof, and that the connecting extensions are anchored in locking openings in the longitudinal bars by being embedded within the foamed core. These elements are not disclosed by Riepler '335 or other prior art of record. Favorable consideration is courteously solicited.

In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the claims remaining in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance and early notice of allowability is courteously solicited. If necessary to further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representatives listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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